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Security Council

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Letter dated 8 May 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached my letter of 23 April 2008 (see annex), which I sent to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konaré, in reply to his letter of 20 February 2008, requesting a support package from the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 23 April 2008 from the Secretary-General to the Chairman of the African Union Commission

I wish to thank you for your letter of 20 February 2008 (S/2008/178, annex I), forwarding to me the requirements for enhancing the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), pending the possible establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, and requesting that the United Nations provide further support to the African Union in meeting those requirements.

At the outset, I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate my deep gratitude for the important role the African Union is playing under difficult circumstances in the efforts to bring durable peace and security to Somalia.

You would have noted that in my latest report on Somalia, dated 14 March 2008 (S/2008/178 and Corr.1 and 2), I presented to the Security Council the findings of the integrated strategic assessment and fact-finding missions that visited the region earlier this year. The missions worked closely with colleagues in the African Union in developing their assessments and recommendations. In that regard, the United Nations firmly supports the view of the African Union that significant progress has been made in the efforts to facilitate a credible and inclusive political process in Somalia and that on this basis more can be done by the international community to support Somali efforts at bringing lasting peace and security to the country.

To this end, my Special Representative and the United Nations country team, in particular, are stepping up their efforts to provide political mediation and programmatic support necessary for the Transitional Federal Government and Somali stakeholders to engage in a viable process towards a political agreement, while building up the necessary governance and security infrastructure of the country. At the same time, United Nations humanitarian agencies will continue to do all they can to ensure that basic assistance is provided to those in need given conditions on the ground.

As noted in my report, once sufficient progress has been made in regard to the political and security agreements necessary for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, I will be in a position to make the appropriate recommendations to the Security Council. In the meantime, the Secretariat will continue to provide technical planning support to the African Union for the deployment of AMISOM and to update contingency planning for such an operation, in close coordination with my Special Representative, the African Union, the Transitional Federal Government and other stakeholders.

In my report of 14 March, I brought the contents of your letter of 20 February to the attention of the Security Council and requested that Member States provide the resources necessary for AMISOM to fulfil its mandate. I also noted that the United Nations stands ready to provide further support to the African Union for the deployment of AMISOM.

We fully agree, as outlined in your letter, that the African Union requires additional assistance from the international community in order to enhance the effectiveness of AMISOM, particularly in regard to the Organization's capacity to

support the Mission and to enable troop-contributing countries to deploy and sustain their troops on the ground.

The proposals presented below on the ways in which the United Nations can further support the African Union in the deployment of AMISOM have been developed with two principles in mind. The first is that United Nations support should be geared towards assisting the African Union to build its institutional capacity to carry out its responsibilities in addressing the challenges it faces in supporting AMISOM. This will not only help the African Union to meet its present requirements, but also help to build its capacity to meet the longer-term challenges of peacekeeping. In this connection, United Nations technical experts will focus their assistance on providing the advice necessary for their African Union counterparts to more effectively carry out their support functions for AMISOM.

The second principle underlying United Nations support to the African Union for AMISOM is to help ensure that AMISOM is deployed, to the extent possible, on the basis of United Nations standards, which will facilitate any future transition to a United Nations mission should the Security Council decide to establish one in Somalia.

To this end, the United Nations is ready to take a two-pronged approach in assisting the African Union to meet those requirements.

The first area of assistance, as requested in paragraph 8 of the attachment to your letter, would focus on building African Union capacity to address the support challenges related to the deployment and sustainment of AMISOM through the provision of additional United Nations technical advisers to the AMISOM planning team in Addis Ababa, particularly, as noted in your letter, in the areas of procurement, finance and logistics advisers. Please find attached to this letter a list of additional technical advisers that the United Nations would be ready to provide to the African Union in this regard, pending budgetary approval by the General Assembly.

While those advisers are a response to the immediate needs of the African Union in supporting AMISOM, the United Nations continues to stand ready to support the longer-term institutional capacity-building needs of the African Union for peacekeeping. To this end, the United Nations planners currently with AMISOM are supporting their African Union colleagues, in coordination with donors, to, inter alia, identify and bring on board new African Union staff who will enhance the Organization's capacity to support AMISOM in the short term while also contributing to meeting the longer-term needs of the African Union. At the same time, within the framework of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations African Union Peace Support Team, the United Nations and African Union are conducting a study of the longer-term institution-building requirements of the African Union Peace Support Operations Division. Once this study is complete, the Department's Support Team will continue to work closely with their African Union colleagues and donors towards implementing the findings and recommendations of the study with a view to strengthening the African Union Commission's capacity to manage ongoing and future peace support operations.

The second area of assistance would focus on enhancing coordination between the African Union, donors and troop-contributing countries with a view to ensuring that sufficient and qualitative bilateral partner funding and support is secured both

for AMISOM-wide requirements and for the specific requirements of current and potential troop-contributing countries. In this regard, I would like to suggest that the African Union and the United Nations hold a high-level donor conference in the coming months, perhaps in New York, to highlight the needs of AMISOM and solicit additional donor contributions for the Mission. I would suggest that at that time the United Nations and the African Union establish a standing coordination mechanism to (1) ensure the continuous updating and validation of the AMISOM concept of operations and requirements based on United Nations standards and (2) develop and coordinate a programme of working-level meetings in Addis Ababa, New York, and troop-contributor and donor capitals, with a view to following up on outstanding requirements.

I make the above set of proposals because I believe it is the most effective, efficient and timely way in which the United Nations could help the African Union to meet its current challenges in supporting AMISOM and, at the same time, build its capacity to meet future challenges.

With regard to the views you have expressed on the arms embargo on Somalia, this matter falls under the purview of the Security Council. I have therefore brought the matter to the attention of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

Attachment

List of additional United Nations AMISOM planners

1. Senior Planning Officer
2. Engineering Planning Officer
3. Contract management Planning Officer
4. Security Planning Officer
5. Communications and information technology Planning Officer
6. Finance Planning Officer
7. Contingent-owned equipment Planning Officer